IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application:

1. (Currently amended)  A method of reconfiguring a storage system, the method comprising:

operating a standalone storage server which includes a plurality of mass storage devices within a chassis and a first storage server head within the chassis to access the mass storage devices in response to client requests, wherein the first storage server head has ownership of the plurality of mass storage devices;

converting the standalone storage server into [[a]]an operational just-a-bunch-of-disks (JBOD) set; and

integrating the JBOD set into a modular storage server system to enable the plurality of mass storage devices to be controlled by a second storage server head that is external to the chassis, including reassigning ownership of at least one of the mass storage devices to the second storage server head, independently of a configuration of physical connection which connects the second storage server head to the plurality of mass storage devices.

2. (Previously presented)  A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the first storage server head and the plurality of mass storage devices are mounted in a single chassis prior to said converting the standalone storage server into a JBOD set.

3. (Original) A method as recited in claim 2, further comprising operating the second storage server head to access the mass storage devices in response to client requests, while the second storage server head is external to the chassis.

4. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 3, wherein said converting the standalone storage server into a JBOD set comprises removing the first storage server head from the chassis.

5. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein reassigning ownership of at least one of the mass storage devices comprises using a software-based command to reassign ownership of said at least one of the mass storage devices.

6. (Original) A method as recited in claim 5, wherein using a software-based command to reassign ownership of the plurality of mass storage devices comprises storing an ownership attribute on a storage medium in each of said at least one of the mass storage devices.

7. (Currently amended) A method of reconfiguring a storage system, the method comprising:

operating an integrated storage system which includes a plurality of mass storage devices installed in a chassis and a storage server head installed in the chassis to access the mass storage devices in response to client requests, wherein the storage server head has ownership of the plurality of mass storage devices;

converting the integrated storage system into [[a]]an operational just-a-bunch-of-disks (JBOD) set, including

disconnecting the storage server head from the mass storage devices;

removing the storage server head from the chassis;

installing an input/output (I/O) module within the chassis to act as an interface between the mass storage devices installed in the chassis and an external storage server head unit;

connecting [[an]]the external storage server head unit to the mass storage devices installed in the chassis through the I/O module; and

using a command to reassign ownership of the plurality of mass storage devices from the storage server head to the external storage server head unit.

8. (Original) A method as recited in claim 7, wherein using a command to reassign ownership of the plurality of mass storage devices comprises reassigning ownership of the mass storage devices independently of how the plurality of mass storage devices and the external storage head unit are physically interconnected.

9. (Original) A method as recited in claim 7, wherein using a command to reassign ownership of the plurality of mass storage devices comprises reassigning ownership of the mass storage devices without removing any of the mass storage devices from the chassis.

10. (Original) A method as recited in claim 7, wherein using a command to reassign ownership of the plurality of mass storage devices comprises storing an ownership attribute on a storage medium in each of the plurality of mass storage devices.

11. (Original) A method as recited in claim 7, further comprising connecting the external storage server head unit to a second plurality of mass storage devices installed in a second chassis, wherein the external storage server head unit further has ownership of the second plurality of mass storage devices.

12. (Original) A method as recited in claim 7, wherein the storage server head installed within the chassis is implemented on a single circuit board.

13. (Currently amended) A method as recited in claim 7, ~~further comprising, after removing the storage server head from the chassis, installing an input/output module~~wherein the I/O module is installed in the chassis in a space previously occupied by the storage server head.

14. (Previously presented) A method of reconfiguring a storage system, the method comprising:

operating an integrated storage system which includes a plurality of mass storage devices installed in a chassis and a plurality of storage server heads installed in the chassis to control the mass storage devices in response to a set of clients, wherein each of the plurality of heads has ownership of a different subset of the plurality of mass storage devices, and each of the mass storage devices is owned by exactly one of the

storage server heads, wherein each of the storage server heads is implemented on a separate, single circuit board;

disconnecting each of the storage server heads from the mass storage devices;

removing each of the separate, single circuit boards from the chassis;

installing a plurality of input/output modules in the chassis in a space previously occupied by the separate, single circuit boards;

connecting a plurality of external storage server head units to the mass storage devices installed in the chassis via the input/output modules; and

using a software-based command to reassign ownership of the plurality of mass storage devices to the plurality of external storage server head units independently of how the mass storage devices and the external storage server head units are physically interconnected, without removing any of the mass storage devices from the chassis.

15. (Original) A method as recited in claim 14, wherein using a software-based command to reassign ownership of the plurality of mass storage devices comprises storing an ownership attribute on a storage medium in each of the plurality of mass storage devices.

16. (Original) A method as recited in claim 14, further comprising connecting the external storage server head units to a second plurality of mass storage devices installed in a second chassis, wherein one of the external storage server head units further has ownership of the second plurality of mass storage devices.

17. (New) A method as recited in claim 4, wherein said converting the standalone storage server into a JBOD set comprises installing an input/output (I/O) module within the chassis to act as an interface between the mass storage devices installed in the chassis and the second storage server head that is external to the chassis.

18. (New) A method as recited in claim 17, wherein the I/O module is installed in a space previously occupied by the first storage server head within the chassis.

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